

## MILES' REQUEST GRANTED.

REPORTS OF ARMY OFFICERS ADMITTED BY THE BEEF COURT.

NEARLY ALL OF THEM DENOUNCE THE CANNED ROAST MEAT AS UTTERLY UNFIT FOR A RATION.

Washington, April 7.—Having decided at its morning session to-day to accept as evidence the reports of officers of the Army, the Beef Inquiry Court devoted itself to the reading of the reports of the officers of the Army. Major Lee, who was the representative of the 147 reports when the only one admitted for the day. The reports were generally brief statements of the personal experience of the officers or summaries of the opinions of the men under them. They bore almost exclusively on the canned beef, but there were occasional references to the meat as a component part of the ration. The complaints were that it was stringy and tough, and in many instances, it was said that it made the men sick, and in others that it was rather than eat it. In some cases, however, the officers reported that they had heard no complaints of the meat.

A. B. Powell, proprietor of the Powell preservation process, was heard to-morrow. The decision to admit the reports was reached at an executive session, and after the renewal by Major Lee, on behalf of General Miles, of the request for action on the application. Major Lee said he considered it important that a definite determination be made as soon as possible. He also asked for consideration of General Miles' supplementary request that a large number of additional witnesses be summoned. There were no witnesses present, and the Court decided to go into executive session immediately to consider the request and take up other matters which might be presented. There was little delay in deciding to allow the reports to be read. Some opposition had been manifested, but it soon passed away when it was learned that all the reports were brief, and could be speedily disposed of. The reports were generally prepared after the close of the campaigns in Cuba and Porto Rico, and in response to a circular letter, and were referred to the application to have more witnesses called, it is understood that the Court will adhere to its determination not to summon any of the list whose testimony would be merely corroborative of that already given.

## THE REPORTS READ.

At the afternoon session Recorder Davis announced the decision of the Court, and Major Lee read the reports.

Brigadier-General Vile declared the canned beef to be a miserable apology for food.

A large number of reports were from officers of the 1st Cavalry.

Major James W. Bull—It is better than no beef, but I cannot recommend it as a component of the ration.

Lieutenant Clough Overton—It is an undesirable portion of the ration.

Major W. S. Scott—I heard no complaint of the canned roast beef.

Lieutenant J. L. Hartman thought the corned beef was good to eat.

Lieutenant R. C. Williams—The beef, when not cooked, was unpalatable.

Lieutenant Walter M. Whitman—The prolonged issue of the beef on the transport was injurious to the health of the men.

Lieutenant M. F. Davis considered the beef of poor quality, and said that he found four maggot-infested cans of beef in the cans while in the field.

Lieutenant H. D. Blackely—No more unpalatable article of food could be issued.

Lieutenant W. C. Rivera—it was an unsuitable article of food.

Lieutenant E. S. Wright—it was a distinct article of food.

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## THE PHILIPPINES' RESOURCES.

AGRICULTURAL AND MINERAL WEALTH OF THE ISLANDS.

Washington, April 7 (Special).—The agricultural, mineral and commercial opportunities in the Philippines are discussed in detail in the monthly summary of commerce and finance, just issued by the Treasury Bureau of Statistics. This discussion shows that although agriculture is the chief occupation of the inhabitants of the islands, yet only one-ninth of the surface of the islands is under cultivation. The soil is fertile, and even after deducting the mountainous areas it is probable that the area of cultivation can be largely extended, and that the islands can support a population equal to that of Japan (42,000,000).

The chief products are rice, corn, hemp, sugar, tobacco, coconuts and cocoa. Coffee and cotton were formerly produced in large quantities—coffee for export and cotton for home consumption—but the coffee plant has been almost exterminated by insects, and the home-made cotton cloths have been driven out by the competition of those imported from England. The rice and corn are principally produced in Luzon and Mindoro, and are consumed in the islands. The rice crop is about 750,000 tons. It is not sufficient for the demand, and 450,000 tons of rice were imported in 1894. The greater portion from Saigon and the rest from Hong Kong and Singapore, also, 5,600 tons (60,000 barrels) of sugar, of which more than two-thirds came from China and less than one-third from the United States.

Cocoa is raised in the southern islands, the best quality of it in Mindanao. The production amounts to only 150 tons, and it is all made into chocolate and consumed in the islands.

The sugar cane is raised in the Visayas. The crop yielded in 1894 about 22,000 tons of raw sugar, of which one-tenth was consumed in the islands and the remainder of 210,000 tons, valued at \$1,000,000, was exported, the greater part to China, Great Britain and Australia. The hemp is produced in southern Luzon, Mindoro, the Visayas and Mindanao. It is nearly all exported in bales. In 1894 the amount was 96,000 tons, valued at \$2,000,000. Tobacco is raised in all the islands, but the greater portion is consumed in the islands, smoking being universal among men as well as women, but the best quality is exported. The amount in 1894 was 7,000 tons of leaf tobacco, valued at \$1,700,000. Spain takes 80 per cent and Egypt 10 per cent of the leaf tobacco. Of the manufactured tobacco, 50 per cent goes to China and Singapore, 20 per cent to England and 3 per cent to Spain. Coconuts are grown in southern Luzon, and are used in the islands. The products are largely consumed in the islands, but the exports in 1894 were valued at \$2,400,000.

Cattle, goats and sheep have been introduced from Spain, but they are not numerous. Domestic pigs and chickens are seen everywhere in the farming districts. The principal beast of burden is the carabao, or water buffalo, which is used for ploughing rice fields, as well as drawing heavy loads on sledges or on carts. Large horses are also known, but there are not many of them. The islands possess strength and endurance far beyond their size.

Gold is found in a vast number of localities in the archipelago from northern Luzon to central Mindanao. In the past the gold is derived from the streams, but in existing water courses are in stream deposits now deserted by the current. These last are called "placer" and are the most valuable. It is said that in Mindanao some of the gravels are in an elevated position and adapted to hydraulic mining. There are no dates at hand which indicate the value of any of the placers. They are washed by natives largely with coconut shells, pans, though the natives also use the Province of Abra, at the northern end of Luzon, there are placers, and the gravel of the River Abra is auriferous. In Lapuyan there are gold quartz veins as well as gravels. Gold is obtained in this province close to the copper mines. In Benguet the gravels of the River Agno carry gold. There is also gold in the Province of Benguet and in Nueva Ecija. The most important of the auriferous provinces are Camarines Norte, Hela, Camarines Sur, Samar, Pangasinan, and Iloilo. These are especially well known as gold-producing localities. Herr Drach, a well-known German geologist, has said that there were seven hundred natives at work on the rich quartz veins of this place at the time of his visit about twenty-five years ago. A chute in which the ore is said to contain a large amount of gold to the ton. One may suppose that this assay hardly represented an average sample. Besides the localities mentioned, many others are known, but no exact data are available. At the south end of the small island of Panay, which is just to the south of Luzon, there are gold-quartz veins, one of which has been worked to some extent. It is six feet in thickness, and has yielded from \$6 to \$10 a ton. In the island of Mindanao, there are known gold-bearing districts. The Province of Surigao, where Placer and the Province of Misamis, near the settlement of Impanan and on the Gulf of Macajalar there are said to be many square kilometers of gravel carrying large quantities of gold, with which platinum is associated. The product of this district was estimated some years ago at 150 ounces a month, all extracted by natives with bateas or coconut-shell dishes.

## NAMES FOR NEW WARSHIPS.

THE PRESIDENT'S SELECTIONS FOR THE TWELVE RECENTLY AUTHORIZED.

Washington, April 7.—The President to-day named the twelve new warships recently authorized by Congress as follows:

Battle-ships—Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Georgia, Arizona, cruiser—West Virginia, Nebraska, California.

Cruisers—Denver, Des Moines, Chattanooga, Galveston, Tacoma, Cleveland.

Petitions by the hundred have been coming to the White House and the Navy Department ever since the new ships were provided for, urging the merits of various names. The President and Secretary Long enjoyed the good-natured rivalry, and in making the final determination consideration was given not only to the urgency of the influences brought to bear, but also to the several sections of the country.

Pennsylvania petitioned through Governor Stone, Senators Quay and Penrose and the entire delegation in the House of Representatives. New Jersey made her plea through Vice-President Hobart, Attorney-General Griggs, Governor Voorhees, Assistant Secretary McCord, Senator Sewell, the Board of Trade of Jersey City and many commercial bodies. Georgia did not send a petition, and it is believed that the choice of a Southern State was due to a desire by the President to compliment the people he visited on his recent Southern trip. Senator Atkins and the delegation in Congress are active for West Virginia. Representative Mercer made it his business to beseege the Navy Department with petitions for Nebraska. The State of California also seems to be a personal compliment, without the same effort as was shown in other States. The ship was shown among the cities, the mayors, city councils, chambers of commerce, etc., joining in the pleas.

The battle-ships, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Georgia are described in the act authorizing them as follows: "Three sea-going coast-line battle-ships, carrying the heaviest armor and most powerful ordnance for vessels of their class upon a trial displacement of about 11,000 tons, to be sheathed and coppered, and to have the highest speed compatible with good ordnance quality. It declares that they are to carry the most powerful ordnance suited to vessels of their class, and to cost, exclusive of armament, not exceeding \$1,100,000 each."

The armored cruisers are similarly described, except that they are to cost \$1,000,000 each and are to have a displacement of 12,000 tons.

The cruisers are described as "protected cruisers of about 3,500 tons trial displacement, to be sheathed and coppered, and to have the highest speed compatible with good ordnance quality. It declares that they are to carry the most powerful ordnance suited to vessels of their class, and to cost, exclusive of armament, not exceeding \$1,100,000 each."

GEN. BUFFINGTON ASSUMES HIS DUTIES.

Washington, April 7.—General A. R. Buffington, who succeeded General Flieger as Chief of Ordnance, qualified at the War Department to-day and assumed the duties of that office.

## HOLAHAN'S TIF WITH GROUT.

A special meeting of the Board of Public Improvement was held yesterday to consider the question of water supply and adopt a uniform rate of water tax in the five boroughs of New York City. There was much discussion by the presidents and Commissioners of the different boroughs over a rate that would be suitable to each borough.

President GROUT of the Borough of Brooklyn read a schedule, which he said had been drawn up by Mr. Moffatt, Deputy-Commissioner of the Water Supply Department in Brooklyn.

"Do you allow your deputies to dictate to you?" asked President Holahan of Mr. GROUT.

"I do not think this a matter of dictation to me," responded Mr. GROUT.

"You would like to see the deputy in my Department who would dictate to me," asserted Mr. Holahan.

It was finally decided to ask the advice of the Corporation Counsel on the question, and then refer it to the Water Supply Department to draw up a schedule.

## IT IMPRISONED NO IMMIGRANTS.

The Austrian Society of New-York denies the statements made by Mrs. Louise Simon, of Newark, that it has been keeping her two nieces imprisoned in its house in Greenwich Street. It declares that the young women were claimed by Mrs. Simon at the Barge Office as her nieces, but Mrs. Simon did not present satisfactory proofs of her relationship. The society cares for friendless immigrants, but keeps only such at its house as wish to stay.

## COURT PAPERS IMPROPERLY DRAWN.

NECESSARY TO DISMISS TWENTY-ONE CASES OF ALLEGED LIQUOR-TAX VIOLATION.

It was found necessary in the Court of Special Sessions yesterday to discharge twenty-one cases of alleged liquor-tax violations owing to the fact that the papers had not been properly drawn in the various police courts. It has been decided by the Supreme Court that in the affidavit of the complainant in an alleged violation of the liquor-tax law it is necessary to state specifically that the saloon or hotel where the alleged violation occurred was a duly licensed place, and that a failure to set forth that fact fully made the papers faulty technically, and that the defendant was entitled to his discharge without further trial.

The Justices of the Special Sessions say this fact should be set forth in the police clerk's report, yet for several months the court has time and time again been compelled to discharge defendants charged with such offenses on these grounds. Yesterday a number of alleged violations of the liquor-tax law were on the calendar for trial, and it was found necessary to dismiss twenty-one on account of this defect.

## CISSIE LOFTUS'S DIVORCE SUIT.

Justice Traux, in the Supreme Court, yesterday appointed ex-Judge Charles Donohue referee to hear and determine the issues in the suit for an absolute divorce brought by Mrs. Mary Cecilia Loftus Brown McCarthy, known on the stage as Cissie Loftus, against Justin Huntly McCarthy, her husband.

## European Advertisements.

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LETTERS & ILLUSTRATED GUIDES can be obtained in NEW-YORK of Mr. FRANK C. CLARK, 111 Broadway, New York, or J. L. WILKINSON, General Manager, Paddington Station, London, March, 1899.

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